

Isaiah 66 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read all of Isaiah chapters 66 together with special emphasis on 66:1-2.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Open: What have been some of the highlights about our sermon series through Isaiah?

Context: "Continuing from chapters 56-59, Isaiah writes about the time when exiles will return from Babylon and beyond. He looks to the distant future, speaking of the glory of God that will rise upon his people like a light in darkness (ch. 60) and an anointed one who will bring salvation and judgment (61:1-63:14). God will bring eternal judgment for the rebelliousness and eternal joy for his people, who will worship him in a new creation forever (63:15-66:24). This prophecy provides the motivation to humbly trust in God and await the fulfillment of his promises." (ESV Study Bible)

The Big Picture: "Isaiah 60-66 shows us that God will come in glory, bringing eternal judgment for the rebellious and joyful salvation in a new creation for all who trust him." (ESV Study Bible, Drew Hunter)

Study:

- 1) In the closing admonition of the book what does Jehovah ask for once more (see 66:1-4)? Why is this admonition so important?
- 2) What does God assure those who heed His admonition (see 66:5-6)?
- 3) What would be born of the travail of Jerusalem (see 66:7-8)? Why will this be an occasion of rejoicing?

- 4) How does God describe His dwelling place in 66:1-2? Where is this principle taught in the New Testament? One what kind of person would He look with favor?
- 5) How did the people view their sacrifices (66:3-4)? How did God respond to them? Why?
- 6) How will those who tremble at God's word be treated (66:5-6)? How will God respond to them? Why?
- 7) How does Isaiah portray Christ and His mission throughout this book of prophesy (see 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 42:1-7; 49:1-7; 50:4-9; and 52:13-53:12)?
- 8) What have you learned from Isaiah about the kingdom of God (see 2:1-5; 4:2-6; 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 25:6-8; 35:1-10; 40:3-5; 41:17-20; 44:1-5; 54:1-10; 60:1-22; 61:1-11; 65:17-25; and 66:7-24)?

Apply:

- 9) How does Isaiah reflect these aspects of the Lord's character: mercy, justice, faithfulness, love, and sovereignty?
- 10) How does God show grace in this book?
- 11) How would you summarize Isaiah's message to God's people? What should be our response then?
- 12) Take time to share how God is calling you to apply these Scriptures to your life? (Encourage one another to remember 3 things about change. 1) **Change is slow** – it may take years for a new attitude to take root. 2) Change is hidden – You are usually the last person to notice real changes in yourself, and the first to imagine changes that you only wish have occurred. 3) **Change is by the Holy Spirit** – Tearful repentance, confession, steady obedience, and painful resistance of temptation are all part of the Christian life; whereas self-condemnation, anxiety, and sheer willpower are not. Self-reliance is only an expression of spiritual pride.”

PRAY:

- Take time thank God that in His abundant grace, mercy, and unimaginable love He sent Jesus to rescue you.
- Take time to pray and ask Him to give you a fresh appreciation for His rescue of you.
- Ask God for grace to apply what you have learned throughout Isaiah.
- Ask God for opportunities to share with others God's love for them through Jesus.

Note: most questions and notes taken from ESV Study Bible and Isaiah LifeChange Book 18.